

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 6-12 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-14 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Loveland patent (US Patent No. 7,076,797). Applicant's independent claims 1, 13 and 14 have been amended, and with respect to these claims, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims have been amended to better define applicant's invention. In particular, amended claim 1 recites a management apparatus in a communication system having an access point to connect electronic devices operated by participants who participate in a conference, comprising: discriminating means for discriminating whether or not said participants is an organizer of the conference, based on authentication information used by said electronic devices to carry out an authentication procedure; and restricting means for setting functional restrictions on the electronic devices operated by said participants according to the discrimination by said discriminating means. Independent claims 13 and 14 have been similarly amended and recite like features.

In contrast, the Loveland patent discloses a system in which access to resources in a mobile user session is set in accordance with the trustworthiness of authentication methods and devices associated with the user session. However, there is nothing taught or suggested in the Loveland patent as to a management system being used in conjunction with participants in a conference. Moreover, the patent clearly fails to teach or suggest "discriminating means for discriminating whether or not said participants is an organizer of the conference, based on authentication information used by said electronic devices to carry out an authentication procedure." In this regard, applicant has reviewed paragraph 10, lines 42-61, of the Loveland

patent and it is evident that nothing stated therein mentions determining whether participants to a conference are an organizer of the conference and the Examiner's reliance thereon for this feature is believed to be misplaced.

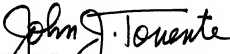
Accordingly, applicant's amended claims 1, 13 and 14, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such feature thus patentably distinguish over the Loveland patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's counsel at (212) 790-9286.

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Respectfully submitted,


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